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PAGE 01 STATE 051314

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: EB:NLPZDRAL

APPROVED BY: EB:JLKATZ, ACTING

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O 071520Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOLL REPEAT MOSCOW 2996 ACTION SECSTATE 06 MAR 75 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD,EEWT,US,UR

SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER ALKHIMOV ON AMERICAN-SOVIET TRADE
PROSPECTS

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF PURPORTED NEW YORK INTERVIEW
PUBLISHED IZVESTIYA MARCH 4 DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
VLADIMIR S. ALKHIMOV DISCUSSED SOVIET EXPECTATIONS FOR
BILATERAL TRADE IN CONTEXT OF RECENT US-USSR TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COUNCIL BOARD MEETING. ALKHIMOV NOTED THAT
SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH GROUP HAD
TOUCHED IN PART ON HIS GENEVA ECOUNTER WITH GROMYKO,
WHICH SECRETARY ASSESSED AS "VERY FRUITFUL." ALKHIMOV
ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE U.S. IS OBLIGATED TO REMOVE
THE OBSTACLES TO NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WHICH CONGRESS
IMPOSED. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGINNING WITH COMMENT THAT U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION
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INCLUDES PROVISIONS UNACCPETABLE TO USSR, ALKHIMOV STATED

BOARD MEETING UNDERTAKEN AT THE SUGGESTION OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S AMERICAN DIRECTORS, "DISTURBED BY THE INFLUENCE WHICH RECENT TRADE LEGISLATION DISCRIMINATORY TOWARD THE USSR MIGHT HAVE" ON BILATERAL TRADE. ALKHIMOV CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. LEGISLATION NOT ONLY FAILED TO FULFILL EARLIER OBLIGATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT BUT THAT THE MEASURES SET BACK SOVUET-U.S. RELATIONS IN GENERAL. ALKHIMOV EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUALS TAKING PART IN MEETINGS, MAKING POINTS THAT U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAD STRESSED VALUE OF U.S.-SOVIET TRADE AT TIME WHEN U.S. ECONOMY IS IN GREAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY AND CITING SECRETARY DENT IN CHICAGO THAT TRADE RESTRICTIONS HURT THE U.S. ITSELF. HE CITED OTHER AMERICANS AS ASKING "IF THE USSR DID NOT INTEND TO CURTAIL PLACING ORDERS IN THE U.S.," AND ANSWERED THAT THE SOVIETS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE U.S. BUT OF COURSE WILL NOT GO SO FAR AS TO APPLY DISCRIMINATORY CONDITIONS (I.E., IN FAVOR OF U.S. FIRMS).

3. ALKHIMOV NOTED SOVIETS' IMPRESSION THAT PROCESS OF SERIOUS RE-EVALUATION IS TAKING PLACE IN U.S., THAT IT IS BECOMING CLEARER TO MANY AMERICANS THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN ON PREMISE THAT BILATERAL TRADE REPRESENTS A KIND OF GIFT TO USSR WERE MISTAKEN. DESCRIBING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS OCCUPIED IN SEEKING MEANS TO OVERCOME ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS TO TRADE BROUGHT ABOUT BY DISCRIMINATORY DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH COMMERCIAL CREDITS SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OFFERING BETTER TERMS. HE STATED THAT SOVIETS HAVE CONCLUDED NEITHER ADMINISTRATION NOR AMERICAN SOCIETY INTENDS TO ACCEPT CURRENT SITUATION, AND HE WENT ON TO CITE AMERICAN SOURCES WHO ALLEGEDLY "DEMAND" THAT CONGRESS RE-EXAMINE THE TRADE/FINANCE LEGISLATION THIS YEAR.

4. CLOSING INTERVIEW, ALKHIMOV ANNOUNCED THAT U.S.-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION WILL MEET IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOSCOW IN APRIL AND THAT NEXT MEETING OF JOINT TRADE COUNCIL BOARD WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT OCTOBER IN WASHINGTON. HE CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENTS THAT FORTHCOMING VISIT OF GENERAL SECRETARY L.I. BREZHNEV TO U.S. IS STIMULATING GREAT INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

5. ALKHIMOV'S STATEMENTS TEND TO CONFIRM THAT USSR IS STILL PUSHING REASONABLY POSITIVE LINE ON TRADE

RELATIONS WITH U.S. BUT ALSO UNDERLINE CONTINUED SOVIET
DISPLEASURE OVER THE TRADE LEGISLATION. HE IS CLEARLY
PRODDING THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS TO WORK
OUT ACCEPTABLE NON-DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION, AND
SOON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE051314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB:NLPAZDRAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750080-0699
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750371/aaaacman.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY MINISTER ALKHIMOV ON AMERICAN-SOVIET TRADE PROSPECTS
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, US, UR, (ALKHIMOV, VLADIMIR S)
To: EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006